

Colorado Springs Climate



<u>Months</u>	<u>Avg. High</u>	<u>Avg. Low</u>	<u>Snow</u>
January	41.4	16.1	5.1
February	44.6	19.3	5.1
March	50.0	24.6	9.1
April	59.8	33.0	6.5
May	68.7	42.1	NA
June	79.0	51.1	NA
July	84.4	57.1	NA
August	81.3	55.2	NA
September	73.6	47.1	NA
October	63.5	36.3	NA
November	50.7	24.9	5.6
December	42.2	17.4	5.3

Normal annual precipitation16.24 inches

Average days of sunshine per year.....300

Average humidity.....50 percent

Average annual snowfall (September-June)
.....42 inches

Other resources available from your Family Connection Team:

- ♦ Websites Booklet
- ♦ Individual Consultations
- ♦ ACS Loan Closet
- ♦ Carson Cares Spouse Orientation
- ♦ Homebuying Workshops
- ♦ Welcome Packets
- ♦ Free Internet Access
- ♦ Children's Play Area
- ♦ Toy & Book Exchange
- ♦ School District Information
- ♦ Gift For All New Spouses
- ♦ Referrals for ACS Programs

Altitude Tips



Army Community Service
The Family Connection
Barkeley Ave Bldg 1354
Ft. Carson, CO 80913
(719) 526-1070

Getting Acclimated



There is less oxygen in the air at 6035 feet than at sea level. Newcomers to the area notice that exertion causes a bit of huffing and puffing, at least for a while. Headaches and difficulty sleeping are not uncommon. The key to getting used to the altitude is taking it easy at first.

Low levels of humidity can cause you to become dehydrated before you realize it. Perspiration does not soak your clothing the way it does in more humid climates—it just evaporates. Exercise in moderation, and drink lots of water! Your skin will be drier out here so make sure you use plenty of lotion. Moisturizers and lip balm are best-sellers around here. Low humidity has its advantages too. Spills, rain, and snow evaporate quickly, and mosquitoes and most other insects are scarce.

Sunburn is another thing to watch out for at higher altitudes. With less atmosphere to screen out skin-damaging ultraviolet radiation, you can get a burn more quickly than you realize. Sunscreen should be applied more frequently than at lower elevations, and sunglasses are a must, especially in the mountains, around water, or while skiing.



Cooking and Gardening

When you bake you should use 25 percent less baking powder, two tablespoons less sugar per cup, and four tablespoons more water per cup. You should increase oven temperature by about 25 degrees. Mixes usually have adjustments printed on the package. Food takes longer to cook because water boils at a lower temperature. Call the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Office at 636-8920 for more detailed information. Colorado cookbooks that take our altitude into consideration can be found at area bookstores, supermarkets, and kitchen shops.



Higher altitude also makes for a shorter growing season. The last killing frost occurs here, on average, about May 15, and the first hard freeze usually hits in mid-October. Frequent watering of gardens, lawns, shrubs, and trees is a necessity because of the dry climate.

The CSU Extension Office or the local Horticultural Art Society (475-0250) can advise you on the best varieties for Colorado gardening and how to care for them. Also check out the Colorado Springs Utilities' Xeriscape Demonstration Garden on Mesa Road north of Fillmore Street for water conserving landscaping ideas.



Driving Tips

Your vehicle may need carburetor and timing adjustments to run smoothly at the high altitude. Most fuel-injected, computer-controlled engines do just fine, although you may notice a bit less power. Drivers should also remember that major snowstorms can occur in Colorado Springs from early September to late May, and at any time in the mountains, especially on the higher passes. This explains why every other vehicle in Colorado seems to have four-wheel drive. For conventional cars, snow tires are a good idea.

Fortunately, snowy conditions usually dissipate quickly because of Colorado's low humidity and intense sun. But smart winter travelers keep an eye on weather reports to avoid heading out into blizzard conditions, and many carry emergency kits with blankets, food, and water. If you do end up getting stuck, it's almost always safest to stay with your vehicle and wait for help. For statewide road conditions call (877) 315-ROAD (7623) or visit www.dot.state.co.us.

